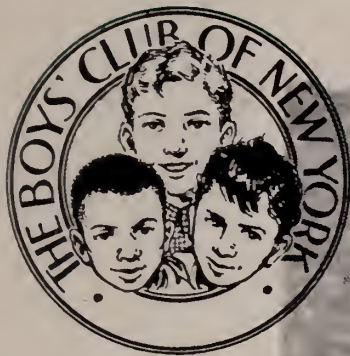


# INTO THE SECOND CENTURY



1876-1976





*A Special Report From*  
**THE BOYS' CLUB  
OF NEW YORK**



*This centennial report  
was made possible by the  
generosity of the Alumni  
of the Jefferson Park  
Clubhouse of The Boys'  
Club of New York*

## THE ROCK THAT HIT THE MARK

To most New Yorkers, the boys who gathered under the gaslit street lamps on the Lower East Side were just young toughs who heaved rocks through windows and pilfered neighborhood stores. To Edward H. Harriman they suggested something else: an untapped source of strength for a growing city — *if* their energies could be channeled in the right direction.

One of their rocks landed at Mr. Harriman's feet while he was visiting a mission society on St. Mark's Place. He tossed the rock in his hands as he watched the boys scurry around the corner. "Maybe we can do something about this," he said.

That was 1876, the year the Boys' Club opened its doors in a basement recreation room at Avenue A and 8th Street.

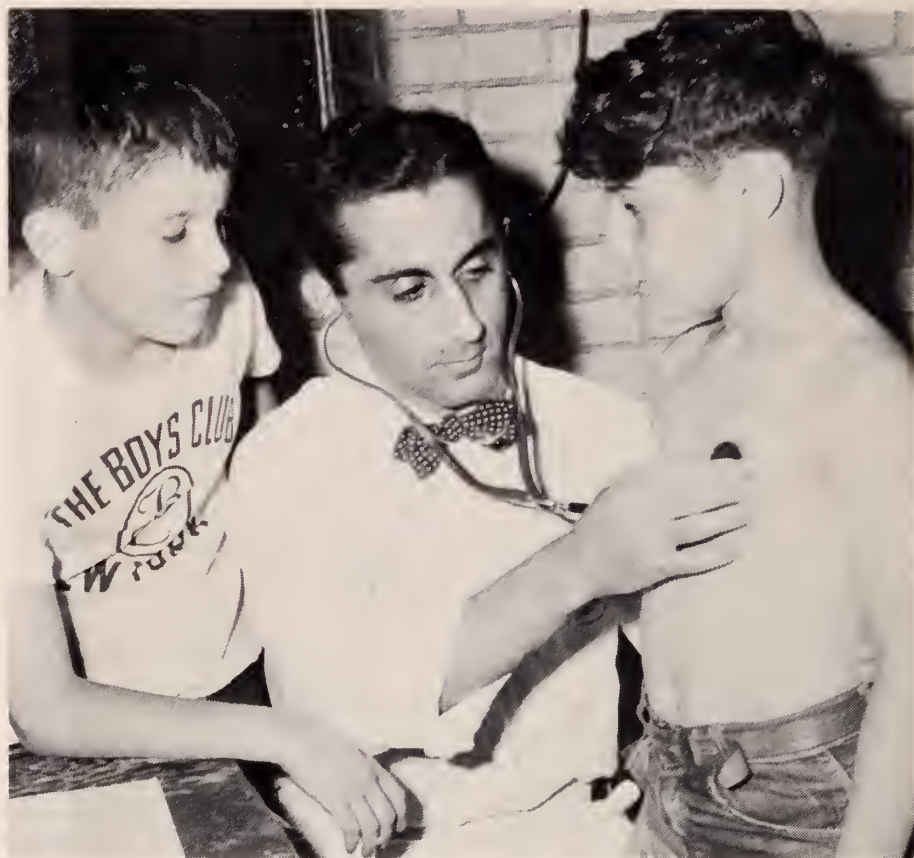
## GROWTH OF AN IDEA

Today, two blocks from that first small clubroom, the seven-story Tompkins Square Building stands as a monument to a century of Boys' Club service. Here, and in the Pitt Street Building on the Lower East Side and the Jefferson Park Clubhouse in East Harlem, over 1,000 boys a day come to swim, play basketball, tennis or baseball, learn handicrafts and discover that the doors of opportunity *will* open if you give them a push.

The growth of the Boys' Club of New York is one of the heartwarming stories of America's cities in the past century. It is also a stern challenge, for the work confronting the Boys' Club today is more formidable than ever before in its history. The clubhouses are located in three of the City's most deprived neighborhoods, areas marked by crime, drug abuse, low health standards, racial discrimination, deteriorated housing and overcrowded schools.

Yet there is hope here, too — hope for the boys and for the city that bred them. Much of that hope rests with the Boys' Club in its second century of service.





# BEHIND THE HEADLINES

For the most part, news programs tell only one side of the story — the side that is familiar to every New Yorker who triple-locks his doors and avoids city streets at night.

They don't tell you about Tony Accetta, who came out of the Lower East Side and, with Boys' Club help, went on to Andover, Wesleyan, Vanderbilt Law School and is now Deputy Attorney General of Colorado.

Or Richard Perkins, a product of East Harlem, who won leadership awards at the Boys' Club and is now a top salesman for a national textile firm. "It was the Boys' Club that broadened my perspectives of life," Richard says.

Or Jose Tosado, who found in the Boys' Club the counseling and encouragement that helped him win scholarships at Tabor Academy and Pratt Institute and carve out a career in photography and design.

They don't mention the thousands of Boys' Club alumni who now lead responsible and useful lives as teachers, lawyers, doctors, skilled workers and operators of small businesses. (The report you are reading was printed by a Boys' Club alumnus who has built his own successful printing firm.)

This is the story behind the headlines — The Boys' Club of New York story.

# WHAT IS THE BOYS' CLUB?

The Boys' Club of New York is a turning point, where a boy can take the high road to education and career — or the low road to street gangs and the juvenile courts. The choice is his, but he needs help.

It is a place where an eight-year-old can step up to the desk and pay fifty cents for a membership card with his name on it; now he belongs to something worthwhile, a place to go any day, anytime.

The Boys' Club is swimming pools and gymnasiums, where a boy can learn to compete in a healthy way, to develop confidence and a sense of personal worth. It is a Craft Shop where he can discover a talent for woodworking or ceramics. And a Drama Club where he can try out for a play or musical, write his own script or design scenery and sets.

The Boys' Club is a staff of 26 trained counselors who work closely with the boys from 3 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. five days a week. They teach character as well as the right way to swim the crawl or hit a curve ball.

There is no coddling at the Boys' Club. Boys take off their hats when they enter the door; no smoking or drinking or drugs. The clubhouses are orderly and well-kept; this is *their club* and they intend to keep it that way.

The Boys' Club is a health center, where pediatricians come regularly to look down throats, and prescribe courses of treatment. A yearly physical exam and health education, for both body and mind, is a full-time part of the program for every member, and a fully equipped dental clinic provides complete service.

It is a counseling center, where boys get expert guidance on personal adjustments, family relationships and legal problems. Special programs are available for slow readers. Nobody is turned away at the Boys' Club.

The Boys' Club is an Alumni Association with 2,000 members, where men who passed through the Club in their formative years come back to help others find the high road by contributing their time and financial support. The preamble to their constitution is worth quoting: "We, the former members, realizing the problems facing boys of our community, join ourselves for the furtherance of the work of The Boys' Club of New York, which we feel is best suited to meet the needs of today's boys."









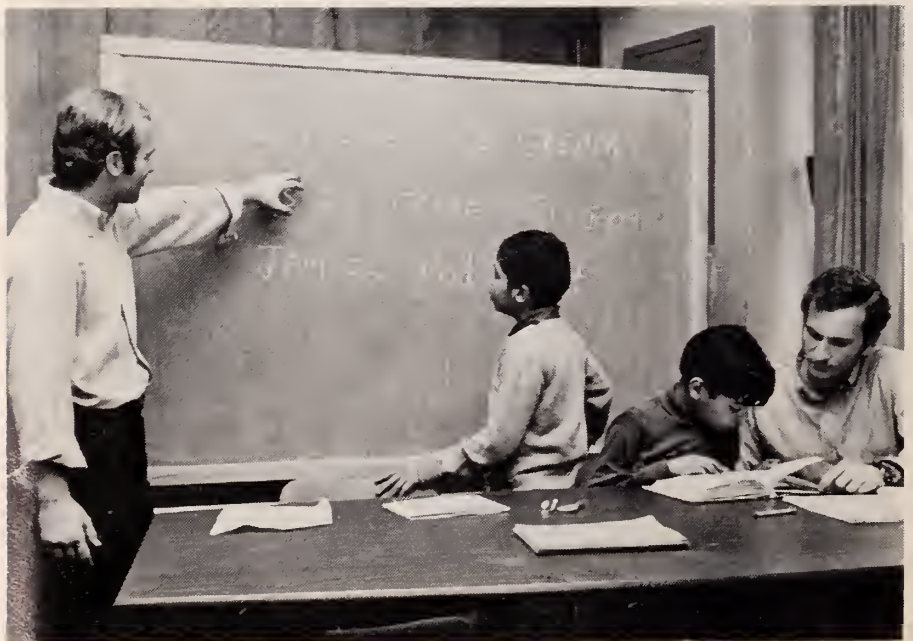
## WHERE YOU AND I COME IN

The Boys' Club of New York is something else; it is a group of men and women who believe that the place to attack crime, drugs and anti-social behavior is at the roots. The Trustees, drawn from industry and the professions, give their time and resources to keeping the Club strong and solvent. The Women's Board, through its wide program of benefits, also provides a flow of urgently needed funds for the Club's activities.

Through annual contributions and bequests many others find their own way of sharing in Boys' Club work.

Today, their help — *our* help — is needed more than ever. It now costs \$1.5 million a year to operate The Boys' Club of New York. That is a very considerable amount, but when you spread it over 5,000 boys the arithmetic changes. Is it worth \$300 a year to help each boy find an alternative to the life of the streets? Measured against the costs of our correctional institutions and juvenile courts the Boys' Club is one of the best bargains a great city can offer, an investment in the future.

Yet the hard realities are there. The Club must attract and hold skilled counselors who can handle the demanding work of supervising 1,200 boys a day. It must pay for medical and dental services at professional rates. Heat, light, equipment, supplies — all have felt the crunch of inflation.





## THE JOB AHEAD

In 1975, The Boys' Club made reductions in program and personnel time to counter financial pressures. Some activities were reduced, a few were dropped entirely. Hours of Departmental Assistants, important to the Club programs, were reduced one-third. Clubhouses remained closed Saturdays for the fifth year in a row.

These cuts have impaired the effectiveness of the Boys' Club's work. Our goals for the centennial year and beyond are to restore these reductions and to provide the extra margin needed for the increased operating costs in the future.

Economies can go only so far without endangering quality. The long-term answer lies in a broader base of support; a higher level of giving by those who are already backing the Boys' Club and the addition of many new members to the legion of annual donors.

This year, will you add your strengths to ours in helping 5,000 boys find the road to responsible and useful lives?

## SOME HARD FACTS ABOUT AREA

**ETHNIC CHANGES** — A shift has taken place in these areas from the predominantly Irish, Italian and Jewish immigrant families of five decades ago to families from the southern states and the Caribbean countries.

While this shift is mirrored in our membership, the Boys' Club continues its constructive work with no change. Boys are boys.

**ECONOMICS AND EMPLOYMENT** — The mean income for Puerto Rican and Black families in Boys' Club environs is \$5,200 per year. The unemployment rate is twice that for the City as a whole. Over half of the employed men earn less than \$100 a week.

Over 74,000 families are on public assistance, with 70 per cent of them headed by women. Hence the Boys' Club staff plays the needed role of surrogate father to the majority of our members.

Because of staff support, a Boys' Club boy stands a better chance than others of getting a job.

**HOUSING** — Most neighborhood families live in overcrowded deteriorated tenements. Fires, lack of hot water, vermin and little or no recreation space for children are everyday problems. Of 71,000 residential buildings on the Lower East Side alone, nearly 10,000 have been declared "unfit for occupancy." Yet they are occupied.

To counteract this influence, the Boys' Club maintains generous recreation areas for the boys that are kept both clean and informal.

**EDUCATION** — In the two school districts where the Boys' Clubs are located about 78 per cent of the students are reading three or more grades below the national level. Language difficulties, poor health and housing conditions all contribute to sub-grade performance. Schools report 53 per cent absenteeism daily. The school drop-out rate averages 44 per cent. School guidance counselors work with as many as 1,800 students each.



## SERVED BY THE BOYS' CLUB . . .

By contrast, each of our guidance counselors gives personal attention to 200 boys per year, which is one of the reasons why Boys' Club members stay in school. Right now, our scholarship program has 150 boys in private secondary schools and colleges.

**HEALTH** — The mortality rate for Puerto Rican and Black infants is 75 per cent higher than for Whites. Active tuberculosis is two to three times the rates for Whites. V.D. is mounting. Child abuse cases are heartbreakingly frequent. Other chronic health problems like flu, measles and dental caries go unchecked. Scarce health facilities keep mothers and their children waiting as long as two days to obtain service at a clinic.

In this atmosphere, the annual Boys' Club physical exam is a vital asset. And when needed, staff members can get appointments for boys quickly in even the busiest hospital.

**CRIME** — Over a five-year period, the three police precincts serving Boys' Club areas report increases in crime that range from 34 per cent to 80 per cent. The 9th Precinct on the Lower East Side has the second highest homicide rate in the City. All precincts report an increase of 12 per cent in juvenile offenders. Principal juvenile crimes are muggings and robberies.

Two of the precincts report that in 1974 18 per cent of the arrests were related to drugs. In 1975 that figure rose to 20 per cent. Unemployment, bad housing, educational failure and disease all contribute.

These are the problems that The Boys' Club of New York is vigorously and successfully attacking through its guidance and health programs.

*From a demographic study sponsored by  
The Boys' Club of New York, September 1975.*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 100 YEARS

- 1876 — Formation of the Boys' Club in a basement room at Avenue A and 8th Street.
- 1887 — Incorporation under the Laws of the State of New York — The Boys' Club, Inc.
- 1901 — The Tompkins Square Building opened at Avenue A and 10th Street.
- 1902 — Camp Carey opened on Long Island.
- 1918 — Health services added to the Boys' Club program — every boy examined and defects corrected.
- 1927 — The Jefferson Park Building opens its doors to serve East Harlem, then the highest delinquent area in the City.
- 1945 — Establishment of The Boys' Club of New York Alumni Association.
- 1953 — Central Park Building opened at 110th Street and Fifth Avenue (temporary facility).
- 1959 — Pitt Street Clubhouse opened on the Lower East Side.
- 1964 — Camping expanded—moved from Camp Carey to Camp Harriman in the Catskill Mountains.
- 1976 — The 100th Anniversary of The Boys' Club of New York. Launching of drive for broadened support to meet increased need.







100th ANNIVERSARY

287 E. TENTH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10009 TEL. 677-4120

E. ROLAND HARRIMAN, Chairman  
MINOT K. MILLIKEN, President  
DONALD F. BUSH, Secretary  
ELBRIDGE T. GERRY, JR., Treasurer  
ROBERT T. OLSON, Exec. Director

Dear Friends of the Boys' Club:

All of us who share a concern for the boys in New York's deprived neighborhoods can take pride in the Boys' Club's century of achievement. At the same time, we are determined to make this milestone event far more than a celebration of the past. Rather, it will mark a renewed effort to strengthen ourselves for a task that grows larger each time a new boy enters one of our clubhouses, seeking guidance and help.

The principal ingredients are already there: a dedicated staff, fine facilities, a proud tradition. Our greatest need is for ever growing support so that we can reach more boys with more programs and more skilled people.

Thus, instead of launching a single "Anniversary Campaign", the Boys' Club will seek broader and deeper support this year, next year and in the years to come. I do not hesitate to ask each person who reads this report: if you are now a Boys' Club contributor, won't you please step up to the next level of giving? If you are not currently on the Boys' Club rolls, will you join us this year?

With your help The Boys' Club of New York will enter its second century with renewed confidence and strength.

Sincerely,

Minot K. Milliken  
President

SERVING THE NEEDS OF 5000 BOYS



